

REMARKS

New independent Claim 44 defines the invention as a method of manufacturing a driveshaft that is balanced for rotation about an axis. Initially, a driveshaft that is unbalanced for rotation about an axis and a balance weight are provided. An adhesive material is provided between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight. Then, the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight are moved toward one another such that a first portion of the adhesive material is disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight at a location for balancing the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft for rotation about an axis. A second portion of the adhesive material is not disposed from between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight. Next, the second portion of the adhesive material (i.e., the portion of the adhesive material that is not disposed from between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight) is initially cured to temporarily retain the balance weight on the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft. Thereafter, the first portion of the adhesive material (i.e., the portion of the adhesive material that is disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight) is cured to permanently retain the balance weight on the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft, thereby providing a driveshaft that is balanced for rotation about an axis.

The Challenger reference does not show or suggest the claimed method. The Challenger reference discloses that a layer of adhesive 15 can be disposed completely between first and second sheets of material 14 and 16. Then, a portion of the adhesive 15 that is disposed between the first and second sheets of material 14 and 16 can be cured using an induction coil 9. Thus, the Challenger reference teaches that a localized portion of an adhesive material that disposed between two sheets of material can be cured. This is completely contrary to the specific language of Claim 44, wherein the second portion of the adhesive material (i.e., the portion of the adhesive material that is not disposed from between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight) is initially cured to temporarily retain the balance weight on the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft. The Challenger reference does not show or suggest that a first portion of the adhesive material is disposed between the rotatably

unbalanced driveshaft and a second portion of the adhesive material is not disposed from between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight, much less curing only the second portion of the adhesive material. Thus, the disclosure of the Challenger reference teaches away from the claimed invention. The Wakabayashi et al. Reference discloses a similar method and is deficient for the same reasons.

The Duck reference also does not show or suggest the claimed method. At Column 5, Lines 36-44, it is stated that:

“the radiation element 9 is close to the upper edge of a wind-screen 2, which is to be mounted in or on a motor vehicle body 1, whilst interposing a heat and moisture-initiating sealant and adhesive 3. Thus, the microwave energy from the radiation element 9 and in part through the microwave-transmitting glass of windscreen 2, can heat the sealant and adhesive in the areas exposed to the microwave energy and can bring about an at least partial curing there.” (emphasis added)

Similarly, at Column 6, Lines 16, it is stated that:

“a locally limited action takes place to a sealant and adhesive 3 located between a glass windscreen 2 and a body part 21 using a waveguide 8', which tapers towards its exit port.” (emphasis added)

Thus, the Duck reference also does not show or suggest that a first portion of the adhesive material is disposed between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and a second portion of the adhesive material is not disposed from between the rotatably unbalanced driveshaft and the balance weight, much less curing only the second portion of the adhesive material. Accordingly, the disclosure of the Duck reference also teaches away from the claimed invention.